

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the following comments, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration of the Final Office Action mailed April 17, 2007 ("Office Action").

Telephonic Interview

Assignee thanks the Examiner, Charles Agwumezie, for the courtesies extended to Assignee's attorneys, Marc Richards (reg. no. 37,921) and Robert Summers (reg. no. 57,844), during the telephonic interview that took place on June 13, 2007. During the interview, the 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112 rejections of independent claims 1, 20, and 21 were discussed. The Examiner suggested amendments that would overcome the 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112 rejections. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of the independent claims 1, 20, and 21 were also discussed, during the interview. Assignee's attorneys demonstrated the features of independent claims 1, 20, and 21 that overcome the references through two examples, namely, a first example where one account includes multiple customers with multiple roles (e.g., a family account) and a second example where one account includes a customer with multiple roles (e.g., a customer with the roles of insured, primary contact, and household member). See Application at ¶¶ 0052 and 0091. The Examiner indicated that the extent of the proposed amendments may require further review and consideration before determining the patentability of the claimed invention.

Summary

The Office Action mailed on April 17, 2007 provided grounds for rejection of claims 1-31. Assignee has amended independent claims 1, 20, and 21, and dependent claims 7, 13, 23, and 25. Support for the amendments can be found in the Application at least at ¶¶ 0052, 0091-0095, and 0100-0105. Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-31, and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19, 20-26, and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, indicating that the claimed invention is unsupported by either an asserted utility or a well established utility. Office Action, p. 2.

Assignee respectfully traverses these rejections. As an initial matter, Assignee notes that MPEP 2106.01 indicates that "a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized" is statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 20, and 21

Independent claims 1, 20, and 21, as amended, clarify that at least one of the problems solved by the claims includes the formation of multiple concise account level decision relationships used to construct multiple concise account level decision queries used to perform account level decision analysis. Independent claim 1 was further

amended to include logic operable to execute the multiple concise account level decision queries, which permits the functionality of the data structure to be realized. Similarly, independent claim 20 was amended to include a processor operable to execute the multiple concise account level decision queries and independent claim 21 was amended to include the execution of the multiple concise account level decision queries, which permit the functionality of the data structure to be realized. In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 20, and 21, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19, 20-26, and 21-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, indicating that the claimed invention is unsupported by either an asserted utility or a well established utility such that one skilled in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention. Office Action, p. 3.

In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 20, and 21, and the remarks above regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are respectfully traversed.

Assignee also notes that the application asserts at least one utility, indicating that a "query may use the account and/or account involvement entity classes to determine which customer is associated with the specified account in order to retrieve information." Application at ¶ 0089. In addition, the application indicates that the "user interface module 110 generally includes a self-contained language ('SQL') or a host language or legacy system for communicating with the database system 130." Application at ¶

0044. Thus, the application provides support for claims 1-19, 20-26, and 27-31, which describe statutory subject matter sufficiently such that a person skilled in the art clearly would know how to use the claimed invention and would readily understand that the claims have a credible utility for enhanced functionality of a database and information retrieval system. Moreover, the application discloses that the claimed invention is applicable to support, for example, the database and information retrieval system for an insurance underwriting workflow system. Application at ¶¶ 0002, 0006, 0071, and 0080-0087. Accordingly, Assignee submits the claimed inventions have either an asserted utility or a well established utility.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-12, 20, and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitrios et al. (U.S. patent 5,695,723) in view of Kennedy et al. (U.S. patent application publication 2003/0187826 A1). Office Action, p. 3.

As an initial matter, Assignee notes that the data structure recited in claims 1-31 provides functionality to capture recursive relationships derived from complex business structures of customers (e.g., joint ventures, a customer with multiple accounts, and a single account with multiple customers) that Dimitrios, in view of any combination of Kennedy, Ariathurai or Moore does not teach, suggest, or disclosure. The data structure of claims 1-31 provides the ability to organize members of a joint venture under a single account (e.g., policy), under which the members may have common policies separate from their respective individual policies. For example, where a joint venture exists between two companies (e.g., Yellow and Blue), an account (e.g.,

Green), which is made up Yellow and Blue, can be created. However, an account manager may already have separate accounts set up for Yellow and for Blue. As a result, the account manager may want to be able to create one master account (e.g., an account group), Green, which represents a grouping of the two already-existing Yellow and Blue accounts. Using the account entity and the account group entities in the account entity class the account manager may create the Green account. See FIG. 5 and FIG. 3, reference numbers 302, 304 and 210, and the Application at ¶ 0114. The data structure of claims 1-31 captures a joint venture relationship so that members of a joint venture that have a common account can be identified efficiently. Similarly, the data structure of claims 1-31 captures a customer with multiple accounts and a single account with multiple customers. The data structure of claims 1-31 provides an efficient and effective way to perform account level decision analysis.

Claims 1 and 20

With respect to independent claims 1, and 20, the Office Action indicates that Dimitrios discloses a data structure comprising: an account entity class, a customer entity class, an account involvement entity class, and account involvements. See Office Action, pp. 3-4. Assignee respectfully traverses these rejections. Dimitrios discloses that "Account" is the target entity in the 'has a' relationship and account becomes an instance variable of the class of objects called 'customer' in Table 2." Dimitrios at col. 11, ll. 9-12. In other words, in Dimitrios each account has one relationship to only one customer. Dimitrios does NOT teach, suggest, or disclose an account having a relationship with multiple customers.

Furthermore, the Office Action acknowledges that Dimitrios does not disclose an account role entity, and attempts to fill in the gaps with Kennedy. Office Action, p. 5. Kennedy discloses "a role class" and indicates that a work record is assigned a role class. See Kennedy at ¶¶ 0101 – 0102. Kennedy indicates that "each work record will have only one workflow and one role class." Kennedy at ¶ 0101. Kennedy describes an invention "operable to automatically interoperate workflows of different work records that relate to the **same original account**, even if the different work records have different role classes." Kennedy at ¶ 0103. In other words, Kennedy describes defining roles for work records NOT roles for customers. In contrast to claims 1 and 20, Kennedy does not teach, suggest, or disclose establishing **multiple** different **roles** for a **customer** with respect to **multiple** different **accounts** or establishing **multiple** different customers with different roles with respect to **an account**.

"In the database, a participant is created by associating a customer data object with an account data object in the account involvement entity (see FIG. 5, reference number 502), and defining a role for the customer with regard to the relationship (see FIG. 5, reference number 504). It is possible for a customer to have multiple roles in a single relationship or across many relationships. Roles may include insured, driver, contact, agent, etc." Application at ¶ 0092.

Accordingly, Dimitrios in combination with Kennedy do not teach, suggest, or disclose the formation of multiple concise account level decision relationships with the account entity class, the customer entity class, the account involvement entity class, the account involvements, and the account role entity class used to construct multiple concise account level decision queries used to perform account level decision analysis,

as recited in claims 1 and 20. Thus, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 20, and the claims dependent therefrom, claims 2-19, and 22-26, should be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 12

The Office Action rejected claims 10 and 12, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dimitrios in view of Kennedy. Office Action, p. 8. The Office Action indicates that Dimitrios disclose a data structure, "wherein the customer involvement entity class includes a customer role entity that defines a customer role for customer data objects." Office Action, p. 8. However, the Assignee's undersigned representative is unable to identify where Dimitrios discloses a customer role entity. Even so, the Office Action contends that Kennedy discloses a data structure, wherein a role entity defines a role for a customer data object. Office Action, p. 9. Kennedy recites "each work record will have only one workflow and one role class." Kennedy at ¶ 0101. The Dimitrios-Kennedy combination discloses roles assigned to work records related to accounts.

Assignee traverses this rejection since the Dimitrios-Kennedy combination fails to teach, or suggest establishing either multiple different roles for a customer with respect to a single account or multiple different customers with different roles with respect to a single account. Even assuming motivation to make the Dimitrios-Kennedy combination, the combination does not disclose the features present in claims 10 and 12 with base claim 1, defining multiple account roles and multiple customer roles assigned to a single customer data object. The features present in claims 10 and 12, for example, allow a customer role of "employer or employee" to be assigned to a customer data object, while the same customer data object maybe assigned the account role of "insured,

primary contact, or household member,” without regard to the account ownership status of the customer data object. In contrast to the assertion in the rejection of these claims, Assignee submits that this feature in claims 10 and 12 are not taught by Kennedy. Rather, the cited portions of Kennedy teach roles assigned to work records related to accounts.

Claims 13-19

The Office Action rejected claims 13-19, under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitrios in view of Kennedy and further in view of Ariathurai (U.S. patent application publication 2002/0198743 A1). Office Action, p. 11.

With respect to claims 13-19, the Office Action indicates that Dimitrios failed to explicitly disclose an offering entity class, a service entity class, a program entity class, a provider entity class, and a task entity class, and the Office Action attempts to use Ariathurai to fill in the gaps. See Office Action, p. 11-14. The Assignee respectfully traverses this rejection. Although Ariathurai discloses using a tool to “relationally store data” and “relationally organize” data, Ariathurai **does NOT define** a relationship between an offering entity class, a service entity class, a program entity class, a provider entity class, and a task entity class. Instead, Ariathurai merely indicates that it has a database that “includes a set of related database tables which store information related to all aspects of the insurance underwriting process, including customer information, policy information, invoice and billing information and accounting information.” See Ariathurai at ¶¶ 0019, 0043, 0044, 0112, 0114, and 0123. Even assuming motivation to make the Dimitrios-Kennedy-Ariathurai combination, the Dimitrios-Kennedy-Ariathurai combination does not disclose the features in claims 13-

19, with base claim 1, wherein **multiple roles** are assigned to a **customer** in **multiple accounts**, and **multiple customers** in an account.

Claims 21 and 27-31

The Office Action rejected claims 21, and 27-31 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitrios in view of Kennedy and further in view of Moore (U.S. patent 5,446,885). Office Action, p. 14.

With respect to independent claim 21, the Office Action indicates that neither Dimitrios nor Kennedy explicitly disclose providing a first entity class for establishing multiple risk data objects. See Office Action, pp 15-16. The Office Action attempts to fill in the gaps of the Dimitrios-Kennedy combination with Moore. See Office Action, p. 16. Moore is directed to an invention that "performs risks and exposure calculations (both mathematical and logical) for the institution based upon the institution's risk and exposure rules." Moore at col. 2, ll. 5-10.

In contrast to Moore, claim 21 recites "establishing multiple different account roles for a customer identified by the first customer ID with respect to multiple different accounts identified by the first account ID and the second account ID; a third account role for the second customer data object, for establishing multiple different customer IDs, the first customer ID and the second customer ID, with different roles with respect to the second account ID; and a fourth account role for the first customer data object with respect to the first account ID, the fourth account role different from the first account role, for establishing multiple different roles for the customer identified by the first customer ID with respect to the account ID identified by the first account ID; and providing a first entity class for establishing: multiple risk data objects; multiple product

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data objects; and multiple service data objects; providing a second entity class for establishing: relationships between the risk data objects, the account data objects, the customer data objects, the product data objects and the service data objects.” In contrast to claim 21, similar to the arguments with regard to claim 1, Dimitrios, even in combination with Kennedy and Moore, does not teach or provide motivation for defining table structures and relationships establishing **multiple** different **roles** for a **customer** with respect to **multiple** different **accounts** or establishing **multiple** different customers with different roles with respect to **an account**, and multiple risk factors related to accounts, customers, products or services. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 21 and its dependent claims 27-31 should be withdrawn.

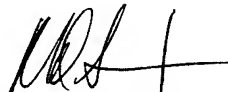
For at least the foregoing reasons, Dimitrios, in view of any combination of Kennedy, Ariathurai or Moore, does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 20 and 21, or the claims dependent therefrom. Thus, the presently pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Assignee respectfully requests that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Assignee respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason the Application is not allowable, the examiner is requested to contact the Assignee's undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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